

# **BRAESIDE READING NEWSLETTER**

### Issue: March 2024

What a wonderful start to the month celebrating World Book Day and Braeside's love of books. It was great to see you all dressed up as your favorite book characters or your pajamas ready for a bedtime story. Each class enjoyed participating in a book swap and there were some great entries for our wooden spoon book character, recreating a front cover of a book and short story competition. Well done everyone. Lets continue to show our love of reading and try a new book or author this month. Read on for some reading suggestions.



# **EYFS Recommended Reads**



### People Need People by Benjamin Zephaniah

From the creators of Nature Trail comes an uplifting picture book about the power of people, and the importance of connecting with others. This timely poem reminds us all to be kind to one another. Written by legendary poet, Benjamin Zephaniah and beautifully illustrated by Nila Aye.

#### Twenty Questions by Mac Barnett and Christian

#### **Robinson**

This brilliant picture book is fantastic for sharing with inquisitive minds. It poses a range of questions, and there is no wrong answer. Indeed, some questions have more than one answer, or endless answers. The only limit is your imagination!





#### Pick a Story: A pirate + alien + jungle adventure by

#### Sarah Coyle

Vincent has lost his dog Trouble at the park and he needs YOUR help.

Bringing the fun of choose-your-own-adventure stories to the world of picture books, this energetic interactive book sets up three alternative tales based around pirates, aliens and the jungle. Throughout, readers can devise their own setting and story based on decisions that send them back and forth through the pages, allowing them to experience the uniqueness of the story being different each time they read it. With twists and turns and hilarious characters, Trouble's fate is completely in your hands.

# Year 1 and 2 Recommended Reads

#### Scientists Saving the World by Saskia Gwinn

A little boy is watching TV with his mum one day and starts asking questions about scientists. What are they doing to save the world right now?

So, Mum starts to explain all the brilliant ways that scientists are helping us right now, from meteorologists like June Bacon-Bercey predicting sizzling summers, to acoustic biologists like Deepal Warakagoda who listen to and record the sounds of animals in different parts of the world.





#### **Budgie by Joseph Coelho**

Miles loves climbing the trees by his estate, but his neighbour Mr Buxton constantly shouts at him to stop. Miles and his friends always speed away from him on their bikes. One day, Miles finds a frail little budgie outside their tower block, and takes it home to look after it. It's beautiful – with a bright yellow head and soft green tummy. Miles names him Pippin. And it's thanks to Pippin that Miles ends up talking to Mr Buxton and discovering that they have a lot in common.

## Year 3 and 4 Recommended Reads

### Being you: Poems of Positivity by Samuel Thompson

Sometimes we all need a bit of a positive boost, and this book of 50 poems packed with positivity and happiness is just the ticket.

Featuring poems about having purpose, keeping perspective, sharing your feelings, being resilient and ambitious, calm and curious (and so much more). This beautifully illustrated colourful book is a real pick-meup, and a great introduction to poetry for those who don't read it very much.





### Wildsmith into the Dark Forest By Liz Flanagan

When war threatens her city, Rowan and her mother flee to the remote Dark Forest. There Rowan meets her grandpa and his white wolf Arto for the first time. Her grandpa looks after sick animals, with queues forming all day outside his workshop. Exploring the Dark Forest near his house, Rowan finds a baby dragon! Poachers have captured the mother dragon, and Rowan knows she must protect the baby. Soon she discovers that her grandpa is a Wildsmith – a healer of magical animals. And he and Rowan must call on all their friends – magical and not – to defeat the ruthless poachers once and for all.

# Years 5 and 6 Recommended Reads



### Am I Made of Stardust? Dr Maggie Answers the Big Questions for Young Scientists By Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock is a real-life space scientist (you may have seen her on the TV) with a passion for sharing the wonders of space and science. This excellent book presents Dr Maggie's answers to some brilliant questions asked by children, from "Did a person drive a car on the moon?" to "What do aliens look like?" and "Does it really rain diamonds on Jupiter?".

#### Tyger by SF Said

Adam is a boy living in London, but not as we know it. In this alternate universe slavery was never abolished, which has left the UK in a sorry state with rich overlords ruling over a sprawling poor and people with origins anywhere apart from the UK particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. That includes Adam's family of shopkeepers.



Then Adam meets an awe-inspiring talking tiger called Tyger and experiences mysterious powers. A truly evil baddy Sir Mortimer Maldedye wants to capture Tyger for his horrible Menagerie and threatens the whole world.



#### Wild by Ele Fountain

When his dad dies, teenager Jack is devastated. They were so close, especially as Jack's mum, an environmental anthropologist, was often away with work. Struggling to manage his grief, Jack spirals out of control, rejecting everything that reminds him of his father, including friends and school. He falls in with the wrong crowd and begins truanting, shoplifting and vandalising property.

Over the Christmas holidays, Mum suggests they go overseas for a break, but Jack is livid when he realises that she has dragged him along on a work trip to South America. Guided by Mum's local colleague Maria and her teenage daughter Pakoyai, they journey deep into the rainforest in search of an indigenous tribe who are at risk from illegal loggers in the region. Jack must put his emotions aside if he is to deal with the day-to-day challenges of the inhospitable rainforest, from blistering heat to poisonous insects. When Mum disappears, Jack is terrified that he has lost her too.

# Recommended Reads – Years 7, 8 and 9

#### Be Happy Be You

Being a teenager has its own unique challenges, but it's also the perfect time to shape your own mental wellbeing and happiness. Scientists reckon 40% of your happiness is within your control, that's A LOT of happiness and this book will help you to harness it...

There are tons of ideas to try from creating an anxiety toolkit, to planning a digital detox and meditating, plus you'll learn the science behind why they work. Carry out the activities by yourself or with family and friends and take your happiness into your own hands!

### Be Confident Be You

The two things you have the power to control in life are your thoughts and your actions. This is great news because these both have a huge impact on how your life turns out. Change your thoughts and you change your world.

# Recommended Reads – Years 10 and 11



### Down and Across by Arvin Ahmadi

*Down and Across* tells the story of a 16-year-old Iranian-American boy, Scott Ferdowsi, who runs away from home and winds up having an epic summer of adventure. It's about a boy dealing with the mounting pressure of deciding his future path. The moral of the story: It's all going to be okay.

### Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

This is a fictionalised account of the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff, the worst maritime accident in history. It has everything you want: tension, romance, undercover operations, hope, and ultimately, tragedy. *Salt to the Sea* is told from the perspective of four teens who have different reasons for boarding the ship, and believe me, you'll find yourself rooting for each one even when you know very well their inevitable fate.





